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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

8 APRIL 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) West Covina – Man Arrested for Alleged Price Gouging During COVID-19

(U) Baldwin Park police had received a tip about a Craigslist advertisement of N95 respirator masks for sale. The listed price for a single box of 20 masks, which are currently in short supply in hospitals across the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic was \$300. Detectives wearing plain clothes and posing as buyers contacted the man behind the post and met with him on Tuesday morning at a shopping center parking lot in West Covina, police said. As a part of the ruse, the detectives exchanged the cash for the box. Then they immediately arrested the man on suspicion of price gouging during a state of emergency. Investigators also seized a stockpile of 420 additional N95 masks from the suspect.

SOURCE: 7 April 2020, [Press Telegram](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – FBI Warns Healthcare Sector Supply Chain of ‘Kwampirs’ Malware

(U) Washington – The FBI has issued an alert over a persistent Kwampirs malware attack targeting the healthcare sector. The healthcare sector supply chain attacks deploy Kwampirs Remote Access Trojan (RAT) that exploits network vulnerabilities of the targeted organization. This is the third time the FBI is warning of this threat vector after the agency released similar warnings in January and February this year. FBI has been monitoring an advanced persistent threat actor using the Kwampirs RAT to exploit the global network since 2016. The FBI alert warns that Kwampirs malware has already gained access to many global hospitals. Attacks involving the Kwampirs malware have intensified during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

SOURCE: 7 April 2020, [CPO Magazine](#)

(U) District of Columbia – FBI Warns about Attacks by Hackers during Teleconferencing

(U) Washington – As people work from home due to the pandemic, the FBI warns of hijackers taking advantage of teleconference calls. As more people work from home, the FBI warns against a cybercrime called “Zoom-bombing.” This is when teleconferences are disrupted by inappropriate images and threats. Some users, such as lawyers working from home, say they are worried about security when it comes to using Zoom for certain proceedings such as depositions, which are highly confidential.

SOURCE: 7 April 2020, [WLOX News](#)

(U) District of Columbia – NASA Sees “Exponential” Jump in Malware Attacks

(U) Washington – NASA has experienced an exponential increase in malware attacks and a doubling of agency devices trying to access malicious sites in the past few days as personnel work from home, the space agency’s Office of the Chief Information Officer said on Monday. NASA’s mitigation blocking mechanisms—which likely include blocking access to servers deemed to be malicious or suspicious, as well as stopping malicious downloads—can go a long way in reducing the damage that happens when agency computers try to access these destinations. Researchers from cybersecurity company Sophos, meanwhile, have tracked dozens of newly created Internet domains containing “covid” and more than 5,000 HTTPS certificates referencing the coronavirus or the COVID-19 disease it causes.

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SOURCE: 7 April 2020, [Ars Technica](#)

(U) Tennessee – Man Facing Terrorism Charge after Yelling He Had COVID-19 and Coughed on People

(U) Henry County – A Middle Tennessee man has been arrested after a District Attorney says he purposefully coughed on people inside the store and yelled that he had coronavirus. As of Monday, there were five confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Henry County and more than 3,800 in the state. The virus has also claimed the lives of 65 Tennesseans. The district attorney said in a news release that the man, whose name was not given, is charged with violation of the terrorism hoax act, reckless endangerment, and disorderly conduct.

SOURCE: 7 April 2020, [News Channel 9](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Pakistan – Seven Terrorist Suspects Killed in Two Operations

(U) Peshawar – Pakistani Security forces killed seven suspected terrorists in North Waziristan and Mohmand tribal districts in two operations spread over Monday night and Tuesday. According to the Inter Services Public Relations, security forces cordoned off North Waziristan's Idel Khel village after being tipped off about the "presence of terrorists." Four of the suspects were shot dead when they tried to escape the cordon. In the other operation, security forces killed three terror suspects during a raid in Mohmand tribal district. The security forces recovered improvised explosive devices, night vision goggles, hate material, and medicine.

SOURCE: 8 April 2020, [Dawn](#)

(U) Somalia – US Airstrike Kills Al-Shabaab Leader

(U) Mogadishu – A US airstrike near Mogadishu earlier this month killed a top al-Shabaab leader, US Africa Command said on Tuesday. An assessment of the 2 April airstrike in vicinity of Bush Madina killed Yusuf Jiis, one of the foundational members of the terrorist group and who held many significant positions that facilitated al-Shabaab's violent activities throughout East Africa. Two other militants were killed in the strike, but their names were not released. The US military has increased its targeted strikes against al-Shabaab since 2014, part of a campaign to beat back the militant organization and prop up forces of Somalia's federal government.

SOURCE: 7 April 2020, [The Defense Post](#)

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